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VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INC.  
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FEB 07 2008

In re Application of  
David BEBBINGTON et al  
Application No. 10/722,374  
Filed: 11/25/2003  
Attorney Docket No. VPI/00-130-08 CON US

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed December 21, 2007, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

The application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed, May 2, 2006, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) was obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on August 3, 2006.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required by 37 CFR 1.137(d). Where there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 was unintentional, the Director may require additional information. See MPEP 711.03(c)(II)(C) and (D). The instant petition lacks item(s) (3).

As to item (3), 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that "the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional." Petitioner's varied statement of "the entire delay in filing the required Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due response, from the July 26, 2007 due date until the filing of this grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b), was unintentional" is insufficient to cover the **entire** delay. Noting that there was no Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed for

this application, the due date for the required reply was not July 26, 2007 but August 2, 2006. As such, the statement made by petitioner fails to cover the entire delay, as required.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:                   Mail Stop PETITION  
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                                 401 Dulany Street  
                                 Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is **(571) 273-8300**.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Quyen Leung at (571) 272-6051 or in her absence, the undersigned at (571) 272-7099.



David A. Bucci  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions